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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY **Argentina**

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DATE DISTR. 29 Dec 1948

SUBJECT **Labor Unrest Continues in Argentina**

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. New instances of labor unrest have been reported in Argentina since the abortive strike of packinghouse workers called for 9 November. Strikes of Bakers' Union members, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company Union members and Central Railway of Buenos Aires Union members already have affected some of Argentina's vital industries.
2. The Bakers' Union of Buenos Aires, seeking a pay increase, went out on strike on 2 December for an indefinite period. A 48-hour general strike was promptly declared by the Union in the interior of the country.
3. An official of the Secretaria de Trabajo y Prevision, Hugo Mercante, has agreed to mediate the two-week old strike of Goodyear workers. Should Mercante intervene, the strike would be declared illegal by the government and eight or ten ringleaders of the strike, alleged to be Communists, would be arrested.
4. Argentine Communists, taking advantage of the laborers' weariness with long delays, provisional settlements, and of having strikes declared illegal, are attempting to alienate labor's rank and file from CGT (Confederacion General de Trabajo) leadership. The laborer also believes management has fared well because of contributions made to Eva Peron's social aid program and to bribes given labor leaders. At least one well-qualified observer foresees the eventual collapse of the CGT because of this increasing internal disaffection and the successful Communist infiltration.

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